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Letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Security Council plans to hold a briefing on Thursday, 18 January 2018, on the subject "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures".

In this regard, Kazakhstan has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the subject "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures", to be held on 18 January 2018

I. General information and purposes

1. Kazakhstan looks forward to its stewardship of duties as President of the Security Council in January 2018. As a State that consistently strives to ensure long-term peace, security, development and prosperity all over the world, we presented to the international community, in April 2016 and January 2017, respectively, two key documents on a world without wars and conflicts. The first is entitled "Manifesto: the world, the twenty-first century" (see A/70/818-S/2016/317 of 18 April 2016). The second is the policy address entitled "Kazakhstan's concept and vision for sustaining global partnerships for a secure, just and prosperous world" (see S/2017/19 of 6 January 2017). Both documents were conceived and developed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

2. It is in this context that the Kazakh presidency will hold a high-level thematic briefing of the Council on the subject "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures". This event, which falls under the item "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction", will be held on 18 January 2018 in the Security Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

3. The thrust is to find political resolutions to regional conflicts involving weapons of mass destruction, wherein "non-proliferation" confidence-building measures would go hand in hand with other political confidence-building measures. Thus, conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution require the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, since those weapons raise the stakes or exacerbate conflicts, with grievous humanitarian consequences.

4. The thematic briefing also focuses attention on the prevention agenda, since there is a greater need for dialogue, diplomacy and confidence-building measures to effectively implement the Secretary-General's Appeal and New Agenda for Peace, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, political resolutions, treaties, joint projects and no-first-use pledges are examples of confidence-building measures that work properly and can be used effectively in the context of overall development.

II. Non-proliferation issues through the prism of strengthening confidence-building measures

5. The proposed topic will build on the existing non-proliferation efforts of the Council over the last two years, in particular at the following Security Council meetings on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction:

(a) 23 August 2016 (topic: "Challenges in addressing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related materials");

(b) 23 September 2016 (topic: "Maintenance of international peace and security: nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament"), to commemorate the

twentieth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and concentrate on nuclear-weapon tests, which led to the adoption of resolution 2310 (2016);

(c) 15 December 2016 (topic: "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Preventing catastrophe: a global agenda for stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors");

(d) 28 June 2017 (topic: "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction"), dedicated to the possibility of non-State actors, including terrorists, acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

(e) 21 September 2017 (topic: "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction"), dedicated to the implementation of the Council's resolutions.

6. The thematic briefing will address key non-proliferation issues on the United Nations agenda, but from a different angle, namely, through the prism of strengthening confidence-building measures, with the aim of formulating:

(a) Forward-looking recommendations based on the confluence of three themes: conflict prevention, non-proliferation and confidence-building measures, as well as the linkages between them;

(b) Confidence-building measures to overcome many country-specific, regional and thematic issues that have remained unresolved for many reasons, owing primarily to a lack of confidence and trust;

(c) Confidence-building measures to enforce the non-proliferation regime and enhance the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) since the pursuit of weapons of mass destruction is continued by threshold States and destructive non-State actors;

(d) A wide range of political measures to eliminate the incentives for possessing weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including the resolution of many long-standing protracted conflicts and crises in various regions of the world which stem from a lack of trust, such as in the Middle East and North-East Asia/the Korean Peninsula, and for the most part have serious grounds;

(e) Confidence-building measures that would become part of the non-proliferation process, with Member States announcing relevant specific commitments.

7. In short, we need to develop new strategies on the basis of a harmonious combination of interests of all Member States to formulate a unified approach for cooperation in certain specified areas, including improved dialogue between nuclear and non-nuclear States. These would help to universalize international treaties (including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention) as means of strengthening confidence-building measures in the context of non-proliferation.

III. Briefers and participants

8. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, will represent the Kazakh presidency at this thematic briefing and address the gathering.

9. The Secretary-General will attend the event and brief participants on the matter.

10. He is expected to talk about the steps that the Security Council and Member States can take to help facilitate a political settlement of crises related to weapons of mass destruction or to ensure that the United Nations system, including its Member

States, takes action to implement confidence-building measures and promote transparency in the field of non-proliferation.

11. Thereafter, statements will be made by the Council members invited to participate in this thematic briefing at the highest possible level.

IV. Outcome document

12. A President's summary of the results of this thematic briefing will be prepared (within three to four days after the event).